

THE KNOXVILLE INDEPENDENT

EQUAL RIGHTS TO ALL.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS

SPECIAL PRIVILEGES TO NONE.

OF THE COMMON PEOPLE.

VOL. XXIII. No. 16

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3 1917.

WHOLE NUMBER 1160

SENATOR WILLIAM F. KIRBY



Senator William F. Kirby of Arkansas succeeded the late James P. Clarke. He was formerly a member of the state supreme court.

260 PERISHED AT SEA

British Steamer *Laurentic* Was Destroyed by Mine.

Dispatch From Belfast Says Victims Were Drawn Under Steamer While Trying to Escape.

London, Feb. 1.—About 200 were lost in the sinking of the auxiliary cruiser *Laurentic*, many of them having been killed by the explosion of the mine which sent the former White Star liner to the bottom last Thursday, according to a dispatch from Belfast.

The *Laurentic* struck the mine off the north coast of Ireland, the dispatch says, and sank in about ten minutes. A big hole was blown in the side of the ship by the explosion. Several boats were quickly launched and, filled with scores of men, were engulfed in the vortex of the sinking steamer. For a time the sea was dotted with struggling men, some of whom were taken into other boats and saved. The remainder could not be rescued. A half gale was blowing and the weather was intensely cold.

Fishing boats took the survivors to the nearest town, where they were housed. About fifty men on board the steamer were wounded, none of them seriously. After the disaster some one hundred bodies drifted ashore.

Another account of the disaster says that a vain attempt was made to beach the ship. The wireless on board the ship was destroyed by the explosion, but in response to rockets sent up a number of mine sweepers hastened to her assistance. Being 20 miles distant, it was a long time before the castaways were rescued. One of the boats was not found until seven hours after the *Laurentic* sank.

2 KILLED IN WABASH WRECK

Train No. 12 Derailed Near Dillon, Indiana—Engineer and Fireman Lose Lives.

Dillon, Ind., Feb. 1.—Engineer E. T. Norman and Fireman H. Yoder, both of Montpelier, O., were killed and an unidentified man seriously injured in the derailling of Wabash passenger train No. 12, eastbound from Chicago, one mile east of here. The engine tender and baggage car turned over. Several passengers were bruised by being thrown from their seats.

DRYS TO HIT AT TOBACCO

Liquor Dealers Say Same People Waging War on Whisky Will Go After Weed.

Cincinnati, O., Feb. 1.—That the tobacco industry is preparing to fight the prohibition movement in self-defense is the claim put forward here by the National Wholesale Liquor Dealers' association. The association asserts that the "same people who are waging war on liquor are equally determined to abolish tobacco." The assertion is based in large part upon declarations printed in southern newspapers.

Alamo.—Raymond Murchison, aged 12 years, is dead of congestion of the brain. Death was probably caused by a fall on the ice, which young Murchison had several days ago, when he struck his head on the ice.

SUMMONS WRITER OF LEAK WARNING

House Committee Orders Member of Hutton Firm to Appear in Inquiry.

ESTABLISH TIME TIP SENT

"Flash" Came to Wall Street Between 12:58 and 1:54 O'clock on the Afternoon of December 20, Testimony Shows.

New York, Feb. 1.—The time of the now famous "leak" of President Wilson's peace note was definitely established as between 12:58 and 1:54 o'clock on the afternoon of December 20. In those 56 minutes someone tipped off Wall street and thereby brought about one of the biggest crashes the street has seen in years.

Steady hammering by Sherman L. Whipple, counsel to the congressional committee which is investigating this leak, brought this out at the hearing.

Hutton on Stand.

E. F. Hutton, a youthful broker, who admitted his firm received information from Washington, declared he made \$22,000 by selling "short" in the hectic days between December 12 and 23. The first information concerning the president's peace move that his office received he said, came from F. A. Connolly & company at Washington, of which R. W. Bolling, brother-in-law of President Wilson, is a partner.

Whipple took the telegrams which Hutton and company sent out to their various connections on the fateful day to narrow down the time of the leak. He showed that at 12:58 a "flash" was put out saying it was "reported" the state department was going to make a peace move. Just 56 minutes later a "confidential" message was sent out by the Hutton people, containing the accurate information that the note had been sent and furthermore a startlingly accurate forecast of its contents.

Unable to Explain.

Hutton could not explain this. The messages were reported, he said, by one of his partners, George A. Ellis, who is now in the South for his health.

A summons for his immediate appearance in New York was issued. It will take him two days to get there, it was said.

Hutton's books, which he submitted to the committee, showed that Connolly & company were not short to any great extent from December 5 to 23. Never in that period, according to Hutton's figures, was the Connolly-Bolling concern "short" more than 400 shares.

"PEACE BY SWORD," KAISER

Emperor and Prince Henry Attend Celebration Held at the German Great Headquarters.

London, Jan. 29.—Telegraphing from the German great headquarters to the Berlin Academy of Science in reply to birthday congratulations, Emperor William reiterated the assertion that the German people will obtain peace by the sword, says a Reuter dispatch from Amsterdam, which declares this information was obtained from German newspapers. The emperor's message, as quoted, read:

"The unshakable will to victory of the German people, who are prepared for every sacrifice of blood and treasure will, I trust God, preserve the fatherland from the ruin contemplated by its enemies and will force by the sword the peace necessary for the blessed development of the people."

The emperor and Prince Henry of Prussia and the eldest son, Prince Waldemar, attended the celebration at German great headquarters.

The emperor issued an order of general amnesty. Celebrations were held in all the schools, high schools and universities.

HUNGER STRIKER GETS FOOD

Birth Control Advocate Reported as "Progressing Well Under Gentle But Forceful Feeding."

New York, Jan. 28.—Mrs. Ethel Byrne, who went on a "hunger strike" when she was sentenced last Monday to 30 days in the penitentiary at Blackwell's Island for spreading birth control propaganda, was described by Commissioner of Corrections Burdett G. Lewis as "progressing well under gentle, forcible feeding."

A bulletin issued on Sunday by the prison physicians characterized Mrs. Byrne's attitude as one of "general passivity," and it was said her condition, both physically and mentally, was good.

Oregon Passes Dry Bill.

Salem, Ore., Jan. 30.—Oregon's "bone-dry" prohibition bill was passed by the lower house of the legislature on Monday by a vote of 53 to 7.

GROUND HOG DAY



(Copyright.)

VETOES ALIEN BILL

WILSON CALLS LITERACY TEST RADICAL CHANGE IN POLICY AND UNJUSTIFIED.

PRESIDENT REGRETS ACTION

Second Time Measure Has Been Killed by Wilson Because of the Literacy Test—Sends Message to the House.

Washington, Jan. 30.—President Wilson vetoed the immigration bill passed recently by congress because of its literacy test provision.

It was the second time that President Wilson had vetoed an immigration bill because of the literacy test, and for the same reasons similar measures were given vetoes by Presidents Taft and Cleveland.

The president's veto message to the house, in which the bill originated, follows:

"I very much regret to return this bill without my signature.

Literacy Test Radical.

"In most of the provisions of the bill I should be very glad to concur, but I cannot rid myself of the conviction that the literacy test constitutes a radical change in the policy of the nation which is not justified in principle.

"It is not a test of character, of quality or of personal fitness, but would operate in most cases merely as a penalty for lack of opportunity in the country whence the alien seeking admission came. The opportunity to gain an education is in many cases one of the chief opportunities sought by the immigrant in coming to the United States, and our experience in the past has not been that the illiterate immigrant is as such an undesirable immigrant. Tests of quality and of purpose cannot be objected to on principle, but tests of opportunity surely may be.

"Moreover, even if this test might be equitably insisted on, one of the exceptions proposed to its application involves a provision which might lead to very delicate and hazardous diplomatic situations.

Exempts Persecuted.

"The bill exempts from the operation of the literacy test all aliens who shall prove to the satisfaction of the proper immigration officer or to the secretary of labor that they are seeking admission to the United States to avoid religious persecution in the country of their last permanent residence, whether such persecution be evidenced by overt acts or by laws or governmental regulations that discriminate against the alien or the race to which he belongs because of his religious faith."

"Such a provision, so applied and administered, would oblige the officer concerned in effect to pass judgment upon the laws and practices of a foreign government and declare that they did or did not constitute religious persecution.

"I dare say that these consequences were not in the minds of the proponents of this provision, but the provision separately and in itself renders it unwise for me to give my assent to this legislation in its present form."

When the message was read in the house it was ordered to lie on the table, and champions of the bill began laying their plans for an effort to override the veto.

McKenzie.—At a mass meeting of the citizens of McKenzie and community, held under the auspices of the W. C. T. U., strong resolutions were adopted endorsing the "bone-dry" prohibition bill now before the legislature.

SENATE ACTION ON WILSON PEACE PLAN IS DELAYED

Cummins' Motion for Discussion of Question Tabled—Iowa Senator Sees America Engaged in War.

Washington, Jan. 31.—The debate on President Wilson's world peace proposal was brought to an abrupt end in the senate when Senator Cummins' motion to call up his resolution for its exclusive debate was tabled by a vote of 38 to 30.

Senators Hitchcock and Williams of the foreign relations committee engineered the movement to kill the Cummins resolution, Senator Martineau of New Jersey being the only Democrat refusing to support them in their contention that the clogged condition of the legislative calendar made the action necessary.

Opening the debate in the senate on Wilson's world peace proposals, Senator Cummins asserted that to do what the president suggests would involve the United States either in almost constant world war or constant rebellion against the authority of the world sovereignty the president proposes.

Senator Cummins' resolution would set aside time for exclusive debate on the president's address, but the senator in his speech departed from that phase to discuss the merits of the president's ideals which have aroused thought and debate throughout the civilized world.

COLD IN FRANCE IS INTENSE

Country Has the Severest Winter Known There Since 1893—Nantes Port Frozen Up.

Paris, Feb. 1.—France is experiencing the most severe winter since 1893. For the last week the thermometer has never been higher than 28 degrees Fahrenheit, except in the extreme south. The cold reached even the most southerly point yesterday and affected such favored spots as Nice and Cannes, while at Cete there was 11 degrees of frost. At Paris, at the same time, the mercury fell to 14, at Belfort to 8 and at Lyons to 5, while the port of Nantes was frozen up, notwithstanding the efforts of ice-breakers.

CALLS MILITIA UNRELIABLE

General Wood Tells Senate Committee on Military Affairs That National Guard System Is Vicious.

Washington, Feb. 1.—Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood, commander of the department of the East, before the senate subcommittee on military affairs, called the National Guard system "vicious and undependable" and contradicted charges that its failure was due to the breakdown of the war department's methods of distribution of supplies and equipment.

He admitted that the quartermaster's department "collapsed entirely," but insisted "even had the war department been ready to deliver supplies and equipment in 24 hours, we would still have had a National Guard only 20 per cent trained and absolutely unfit for field service."

RUSS GAIN IN THE SOUTH

Capture Teuton Positions in Kimpolung Region—Are Pressed Back in the Riga Sector.

Petrograd, Feb. 1.—Russian troops have captured Austro-German fortifications east of Jacobeni southwest of Kimpolung, near the northern end of the Rumanian front, the war office announced today. Prisoners and booty were taken by the Russians.

German forces attacked the Russian lines southwest of Riga. Here the attack in general was arrested, but near the Kalnzen-Chloik high road the Russian forces were withdrawn two-thirds of a mile after the assault.

U.S. AND GERMANY ON VERGE OF WAR

AS RESULT OF DECLARATION OF UNRESTRICTED SUBMARINE WARFARE.

Starvation Blockade of England, the Like of Which the World Has Never Before Seen.

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

Washington.—Germany has declared unrestricted submarine warfare. A starvation blockade of England, the like of which the world never has seen, was announced to the world in notes delivered to American Ambassador in Berlin, and to the State Department here by Count von Bernstorff.

Thus begins the long-fored campaign of ruthlessness, conceived by von Hindenburg, it is said here, on a magnitude never even contemplated by von Tirpitz. Again the United States faces severance of diplomatic relations with Germany with all its eventual possibilities. President Wilson's repeated warnings of "a world-afire" and Secretary Lansing's "verge of war" statement were being recalled in the capital with feelings of apprehension and misgiving. Germany's action is the super-crisis of all those that have stirred the American government in two and a half years of world war.

Peace Plans Go Glimmering.

Talk of peace and means of preserving peace have gone glimmering. President Wilson, incredulous at first when the unofficial text of Germany's warning was brought to him, at once called for the official document which had just been presented to Secretary Lansing by the German Ambassador. Mr. Lansing absolutely refused to make a comment. President Wilson began at once a careful study of the document. The President has the task of deciding what shall be the course of the United States. Three immediate steps appear among the possibilities. The United States might solemnly warn Germany against a violation of her pledges; it might be decided that the German warning is sufficient notice of an intention to disregard those pledges and a sufficient warrant for breaking off diplomatic relations; it might be decided to await the results of the blockade and determine the course of the United States as the actual operations develop. On almost every side Germany's drastic action is interpreted as an open confession of the effectiveness of the British food blockade. It is regarded as a determination to strike back in kind. German officials in the United States estimate the food supply of the British Isles will last a month. Admittedly, the plan is to carry starvation to the doors of England with swift, staggering strokes as a fulfillment of Germany's announced determination to use every weapon and agency at her command to end the war quickly.

BERLIN TO WARN AMERICANS

"Don't Sail on Enemy Ships" to Be Substance of German Document to United States.

Washington, Jan. 31.—A warning to Americans not to take passage on ships armed by the enemies of the central powers is expected here soon. Whether the warning will be conveyed to the state department through the American embassy in Berlin or through the German embassy in Washington is not indicated.

WANT WOMAN SHELLMAKERS

Britain Advertises for 20,000 to Work in Munition Factories—Wanted at Once.

London, Feb. 1.—The minister of munitions is advertising for 20,000 women to fill shells in British munition factories.

"This appeal," the Daily Mail says, "illustrates signally the crowning defect of Chamberlain's scheme of national service—namely, that it does not propose to take steps to enroll the women at once, but leaves them to be dealt with after all available men have been found."

"It is now seen that women are wanted at once. Munition factories cannot wait until it is known whether Chamberlain's voluntary recruiting effort succeeded or failed."

EIGHT KILLED IN TWO WRECKS

Four Victims Burn to Death Near Cleveland, O.—Four Die in Collision at Mounds, Ark.

Cleveland, O., Jan. 29.—Four persons were killed, three being burned to death, and eighteen persons were injured, several seriously, when two interurban cars, one a passenger and the other a package car, collided between Strongsville and Brunswick, 15 miles west of here, on the Cleveland, Columbus & Southwestern Electric line. All of the victims were in the passenger car, the crew of the freight escaping injury.

Memphis, Tenn., Jan. 29.—Four persons were killed and more than a score injured in a collision late at night between a St. Louis Southwestern railroad engine and Rock Island passenger train No. 504, east-bound from Little Rock, Ark., at Mounds, Ark., near here.

Smash German Defenses in Lorraine South of Leintrey—Take Trenches and Prisoners.

Paris, Feb. 1.—A French detachment penetrated the first two lines of German trenches in Lorraine south of Leintrey, says the official report. All the occupants of the trenches were routed and prisoners were taken.

MISS ANGELA CASTRO



Though D. M. Castro Quesada, minister to the United States from Costa Rica, is a bachelor, the legation is a favorite gathering place for the diplomatic set. Miss Angela Castro, the minister's sister, is one of the most popular hostesses in Washington.

BRITISH SHIPS ARMED?

Berlin Says English Merchantmen Hunt German Submarines.

Promise Complete Proof That Standing Cash Prizes Are Offered by Entente Governments.

Washington, Feb. 1.—Germany has promised the state department complete "proof" that British armed merchantmen systematically hunt German submarines to ram or sink them by cannon fire. Specific instances of such actions already have been cited to the state department. However, up to the present time, this evidence is incomplete and as a result the United States has not utilized it to base a direct inquiry to Great Britain, Secretary of State Lansing said.

The German government has promised, however, that it will make out a complete case in its endeavor to have the United States class entente merchant craft, armed fore and aft, as auxiliary cruisers. It has cited to this government copies of alleged French and British orders to merchant captains telling them to ram or sink in any way possible all submarines sighted. In addition, it is alleged, that standing cash prizes of \$5,000 per submarine are offered by all of the entente governments.

Secretary Lansing said that he has no information that such prizes are offered "except for successful resistance to attack." He also said that this government still was without any direct information that entente merchantmen, especially British, are to be more heavily armed.

WANT WOMAN SHELLMAKERS

Britain Advertises for 20,000 to Work in Munition Factories—Wanted at Once.

London, Feb. 1.—The minister of munitions is advertising for 20,000 women to fill shells in British munition factories.

"This appeal," the Daily Mail says, "illustrates signally the crowning defect of Chamberlain's scheme of national service—namely, that it does not propose to take steps to enroll the women at once, but leaves them to be dealt with after all available men have been found."

"It is now seen that women are wanted at once. Munition factories cannot wait until it is known whether Chamberlain's voluntary recruiting effort succeeded or failed."

FRENCH START NEW BATTLE

Smash German Defenses in Lorraine South of Leintrey—Take Trenches and Prisoners.

Paris, Feb. 1.—A French detachment penetrated the first two lines of German trenches in Lorraine south of Leintrey, says the official report. All the occupants of the trenches were routed and prisoners were taken.